

IN THE CLAIMS

1- 59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented biometric identification method, comprising:

receiving a biometric sample from an individual;

locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples, the currently stored registration biometric samples provided by at least two registered individuals;

comparing the received biometric sample with at least one of the currently stored registration biometric samples in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples to find a match; and

transmitting a confirmation of the match.

61. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 60, wherein the method further comprises receiving a personal identification code from the ~~user~~individual.

62. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 61, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

63. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 60, further comprising:

receiving a new registration biometric sample for the individual during a registration step; and

storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples.

64. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 63, further comprising receiving a ~~registration~~ personal identification code for the individual during the registration step.

65. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 64, wherein storing the new registration biometric sample includes storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the ~~registration~~-personal identification code.

66. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 60, wherein the identification method is conducted without the ~~user~~-individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

67. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented biometric identification method, comprising:
receiving a ~~user's~~-biometric sample from an individual via a connection;
locating a currently stored set of registration biometric samples, the registration biometric samples provided by at least two registered individuals;
comparing the ~~received user's~~-biometric sample with a subset of a ~~the~~ currently stored set of registration biometric samples to produce an evaluation; and
transmitting the evaluation.

68. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 67, further comprising receiving a ~~user's~~-personal identification code from the individual via the connection.

69. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 67, wherein each of the ~~registered-registration~~ biometric samples is associated with a personal identification code from the individual.

70. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 69 wherein:
the method further comprises receiving a ~~user's~~-personal identification code via the connection from the individual; and
comparing the ~~user's~~-received biometric sample includes comparing the ~~user's~~-received biometric sample with a subset of the currently stored set ~~registered-registration~~ biometric samples associated with the ~~user's~~-personal identification code to produce the evaluation.

71. (New) The identification method of claim 70, further comprising receiving the personal identification code from the individual.

72. (New) The identification method of claim 71, wherein locating a currently stored set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

73. (New) The identification method of claim 67, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

74. (New) The identification method of claim 65, further comprising receiving the personal identification code from the individual.

75. (New) The identification method of claim 74, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

76. (New) An identification system comprising:
a database to store a set of registration biometric samples, the registration biometric samples provided by at least two registered individuals;
a network component to receive a biometric data from an individual over a communication link and output data associated with the individual over the communication link;
and
a comparator component to compare the biometric data from the individual with at least one registration biometric sample in a subset of the registration biometric samples stored in the database to locate the data associated with the individual, the subset of the registration biometric samples including registration biometric samples from at least two individuals.

77. (New) The identification system of claim 76, wherein the network component is operable to receive a personal identification code from the individual over the communication link.

78. (New) The identification system of claim 77, wherein the comparator component is operable to compare the biometric data from the individual with a subset of the registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code from the individual to determine the identity of the individual.

79. (New) The identification system of claim 76, wherein the network component is operable to receive a registration biometric sample for the individual and store the registration biometric sample in the database.

80. (New) The identification system of claim 79, wherein the network component is operable to receive with the registration biometric sample for the individual a registration personal identification code for the individual and to associate the registration biometric sample with the registration personal identification code in the database.

81. (New) The identification system of claim 80, wherein the central computer system is operable to receive the personal identification code from the individual over the communication link, and locate the set of registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

82. (New) The identification system of claim 76, wherein the identification system is designed to operate without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

83. (New) A computer-implemented identification method, comprising:
gathering biometric information from an individual for a transaction;
transmitting the biometric information to an identifier via an output port;
receiving from the identifier data associated with the individual; and
using the data associated with the individual to perform the transaction.

84. (New) The identification method of claim 83, wherein the biometric information includes a biometric sample.

85. (New) The identification method of claim 84, wherein the biometric information further includes a personal identification code.

86. (New) The identification method of claim 83, further comprising:
gathering a registration biometric sample received from the individual; and
transmitting the registration biometric sample to the identifier via the output port.

87. (New) The identification method of claim 86, further comprising:
determining a personal identification code for the individual; and
transmitting the personal identification code to the identifier via the output port.

88. (New) The identification method of claim 87, wherein gathering the biometric information from the individual includes gathering the personal identification code from the individual.

89. (New) The identification method of claim 83, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

90. (New) An identification system comprising:
a local computer system including an output port to transmit biometric data from an individual onto a communication link and an input port to receive data associated with the individual from the communication link; and
an output device within the local computer system to use the data associated with the individual to perform a transaction.

91. (New) The identification system of claim 90, further comprising a biometric input device to receive the biometric data from the individual, the local computer system operative to control the biometric input device.

92. (New) The identification system of claim 90, including an alphanumeric input device coupled to the local computer system for the individual to input alphanumeric data, the local computer operative to transmit the alphanumeric data via the output port.

93. (New) The identification system of claim 90, wherein the output device is operable to indicate the data associated with the individual.

94. (New) The identification system of claim 90, wherein the identification system is operative without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

95. (New) Computer-readable media storing software to implement the method of:
receiving a biometric sample from an individual;
locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples, the currently stored registration biometric samples provided by at least two registered individuals;
comparing the received biometric sample with at least one of the currently stored registration biometric samples in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples to find a match; and
transmitting a confirmation of the match.

96. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 95, wherein the method further comprises receiving a personal identification code from the individual.

97. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 96, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

98. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 95, further comprising:

receiving a new registration biometric sample for the individual during a registration step;
and
storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples.

99. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 98, further comprising receiving a personal identification code for the individual during the registration step.

100. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 99, wherein storing the new registration biometric sample includes storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

101. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 100, further comprising receiving the personal identification code from the individual.

102. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 101, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

103. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 95, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

104. (New) Computer-readable media storing software to implement the method of:
gathering biometric information from an individual for a transaction;
transmitting the biometric information to an identifier via an output port;
receiving from the identifier data associated with the individual; and
using the data associated with the individual to perform the transaction.

105. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 104, wherein the biometric information includes a biometric sample.

106. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 105, wherein the biometric information further includes a personal identification code.

107. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 104, further comprising: gathering a registration biometric sample received from the individual; and transmitting the registration biometric sample to the identifier via the output port.

108. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 107, further comprising: determining a personal identification code for the individual; and transmitting the personal identification code to the identifier via the output port.

109. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 108, wherein gathering the biometric information from the individual includes gathering the personal identification code from the individual.

110. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 104, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.